

To whom it may concern:

I OPPOSE H.B. 5653. This proposal would penalize law abiding gun owners for the actions of criminals. These criminals are not obtaining guns or ammunition legally. Your efforts should focus on illegal drug trade, prosecution and imprisonment of these criminals that don't follow any gun laws. This tax is in essence a "sin tax" on a Constitutionally guaranteed right. No other right in America is taxed in order to have that right. As it is, we are already taxed an additional 11% on top of the CT sales tax for guns and ammunition. Lastly, this makes training very expensive. For the poor, people of color and women, many that live in areas where drugs and gangs make daily living unsafe, this tax makes owning and training with a gun for self-defense prohibitive. This bill will do nothing to stop the causes of gun violence, namely drugs, gangs and lack of real penalties for use of guns in crime, but will be prohibitive to those that legally exercise their rights as an American.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joseph S. Warmus